

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

F A C T S H E E T

APPROVAL FOR HIRING AND SPENDING AUTHORITY TO FURTHER IMPLEMENT THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT-COMMUNITY SERVICES AND SUPPORTS PLAN FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES TO YOUTH IN PROBATION CAMPS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007-08 (ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)

REQUEST

1. Authorize the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to implement expanded mental health services for Seriously Emotionally Disturbed (SED) Transition Age Youth (TAY), ages 16 to 20, residing in the Los Angeles County Juvenile Justice Probation Camps, consistent with the Department's Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Community Services and Supports (CSS) Plan, effective upon Board approval, at an estimated cost of \$2,489,000 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2007-08 (Attachment I), fully funded by MHSA CSS ongoing funding.
2. Authorize DMH to fill 26 ordinance positions/26 Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs) as detailed on Attachment II in excess of what is provided for in DMH's staffing ordinance, pursuant to Section 6.06.020 of the County Code and subject to allocation by the Chief Executive Office (CEO).

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION

Board approval of the recommended actions will enable DMH to further develop and expand the current level of mental health services available to SED youth residing in the Probation Camps. Approximately 40 percent (40%) of the 5,000 youths sentenced to the County's eighteen (18) Probation Camps each year have serious mental health problems. The Department currently provides mental health services at nine (9) of the camps. The proposed program will significantly expand the mental health service delivery capacity at these nine (9) camps in alignment with the Probation Department's Camp Redesign by locating staff on site at all nine (9) camps and increasing the number of staff assigned to this program. The Camp Redesign aims to achieve positive behavioral change in youth in the camps through evidence-based practices. It also aims to prepare these youth for successful reintegration into the community.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

The focus of the State-approved MHSA – CSS Plan (Plan) is on recovery-oriented services for people who are diagnosed as SED and/or with Severe and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI), as well as resiliency for children and youth. The Plan is designed

to reduce and/or prevent homelessness, unnecessary hospitalization, and incarceration. Additionally, the Plan supports services that contribute to the reduction of recidivism rates for TAY with mental illness and co-occurring disorders that are at risk of incarceration in jail and juvenile justice settings.

In collaboration with the Probation Department Camp Redesign project, DMH will augment existing nursing services throughout the juvenile justice camps. Five (5) Clinic Nurses will deliver psychotropic medication and related medication support services to youth residing in the camps. DMH will fund these augmented nursing services through MHSA funding designated in the Plan. In order to access the funding for these positions, a Departmental Services Order (DSO) will be prepared and issued to the Department of Probation.

DMH has recently completed Request For Service (RFS) #13 to select contract providers to deliver services and supports to Seriously Emotionally Disturbed (SED) minors residing in the nine (9) Juvenile Probation Camps during evening, night and weekend hours. These services will be in accordance with the youth's individualized plan and be provided under the guidance of a multidisciplinary treatment team. It is anticipated that your Board will be requested to approve contracts with the selected providers within the next month.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES

During FY 2006-07, there were approximately 2,000 minors (of the 5,000 admitted) in the Probation Camps that were provided with mental health services. While youth move to the Probation Camps from the Juvenile Halls where their mental health needs have been identified, current mental health staffing patterns in the Camps are not sufficient to address their on-going treatment needs. Increased mental health staffing levels are also required for DMH to fully participate in the Probation Camp Redesign.

MHSA funding will provide a significant increase in staff providing mental health and co-occurring substance abuse treatment in the Probation Camps. The enhanced programming will provide access to these services to camp youth who have heretofore been unserved or underserved, and support DMH's transformation to recovery-oriented services. In addition, this enhanced mental health services delivery program will promote efforts to reduce recidivism, integrate families and other support systems in the youth's treatment, and work towards successful transitions from the Camps back into community settings

CONTACT INFORMATION

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